

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01983 111933Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0523
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
RUDTCXAMEMBASSY LONDON 3575
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEURCVAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1983

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: MILI PINT PO
SUBJECT: MARCH 11: A DIFFERENT ATMOSPHERE

REFS: A) LISBON 1602 (DTG 010728Z MAR 77),
B) LISBON 1492 (DTG 24174Z FEB 77)

SUMMARY: THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAR 11, 1975 RIGHTWING COUP
ATTEMPT AND COMMUNIST COUNTER-OFFENSIVE IS PASSING
CALMLY IN LISBON. RALLIES BY A FAR LEFT GROUP
WERE BARRED. HE AUTHORITIES ARE RESPONDING IN A
MEASURED AND EFFECTIVE MANNER TO STEPPED-UP COMMUNIST
SUBVERSION BY PUBLICIZING LEFTIST ACTIVITIES AND NOT
GIVING THE FAR RIGHT A PRETEXT FOR MOUNTING ITS OWN
REACTION. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 LISBON 01983 111933Z

1. MAR 11 TWO YEARS LATER: E SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF
THE ABORTIVE MAR 11, OUT RIGHTIST COUP ATTEMPT AND COMMUNIST
COUNTER-OFFENSIVE IS PASSING QUIETLY IN
LISBON. BOTH THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP AND THE COMMUNISTS,
HOWEVER, ARE ACTIVE ON OTHER FRONTS.
-- COMMUNISTS RESTRAINED ON MAR 11: PCP MOUTHPIECE
"O DIARIO" LIMITED ITSELF TO A PAGE 4 BOX

CONDEMNING THE EXPLOITATION OF MAR 11 BY THE RIGHT.

-- DEMONSTRATIONS PROHIBITED: THE CIVIL GOVERNOR OF LISBON PROHIBITED A MAR 11 RALLY SCHEDULED BY THE FAR LEFT COMMITTEE OF EX-MILITARY AGAINST FASCISM. LISBON MILITARY REGION GOVERNOR GEN VASCO LOURENCO LIKewise REFUSED TO AUTHORIZE A CKREMONY BY THE SAME CVMMITTEE AT THE LISBON ARTILLERY REGIMENT (RALIS), TARGET OF THE 1975 :970 ATTEMPT.

-- EANES TO COIMBRA: PRESIDENT EANES AND ARMY CHIEF GEN ROCHA VIEIRA TRAVELLED MAR 10 TO COIMBRA TO MEET WITH CENTRAL MILITARY REGION COMMANDER HUGO DOS SANTOS. SANTOS, A CLOSE FRIEND OF EANES, HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS FOR HIS ATTACKS ON COMMUNIST INFILTRATIONS IN HIS REGION (EF A).

-- AZEREDO HITS ANTUNES:: COL CARLOS AZEREDO, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE OPORTO CAVALRY REGIMENT, WROTE A STRONG LETTER TO MAJ MELO ANTUNES WHICH RECEIVED WIDE PUBLCITY IN THE MAR 10 PRESS. AZEREDO SAID THAT ANTUNES'S RECENT INTERVIEW IN THE SPANISH PRESS (REF B) ENDANGERED NATIONAL STABILITY.

-- COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTH: A CVANDESTINE NEWSLETTER SURFACED MAR 11 IN THE SOUTHERN MILITARY REGION (RMS). THE PAMPHLET COMPLAINED OF THE REINSTITUTION OF "FASCIST DISCIPLINE" AND DEFENDED THE "CONQUESTS OF THE REVOLUTION." AN AIR FORCE RCCMEMBER TOLD AIRA MAR 10 THAT THE INCIDENT IN THE RMS ESTREMOZ CAVALRY REGIMENT HAD RESULTED FROM A COMMUNIST PARTY EFFORT TO CREATE A CLANDESTINE PARALLEL STRUCTURE IN THE UNIT (EF A).

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PAGE 03 LISBON 01983 111933Z

2. COMMENT: HE AUTHORITIES HAVE RESPONDED TO STEPPED-UP COMMUNIST SUBVERSION IN A MEASURED AND EFFECTIVE MANNER BY PUBLICIZING LEFTIST ACVIVITIES AND NOT GIVING THE FAR RIGHT A PRETEXT TO MOUNT ITS OWN REACTION. ARMA HAS LEARNED THAT AZEREDO'S ATTACK ON MELO ANTUNES, LIKE HUGO DOS SANTOS'S COMPLAINT OF COMMUNIST INFILTRATION EFFORTS, WAS DESIGNED BY THOSE AROUND EANES TO PUT THE LEFT ON THE DEFENSIVE. CARLUCCI

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